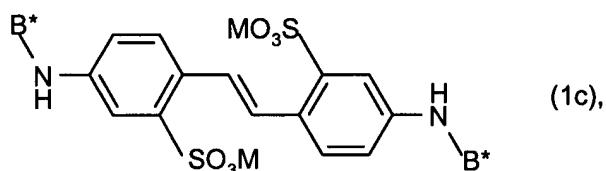
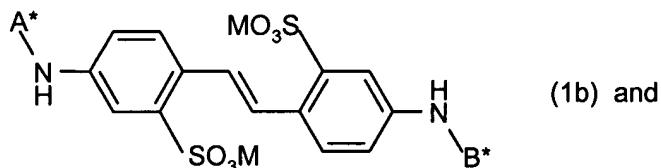
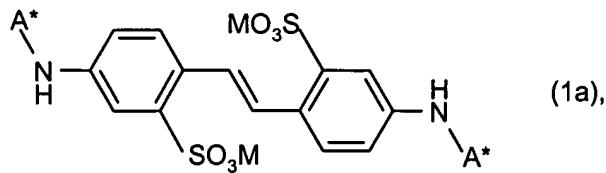
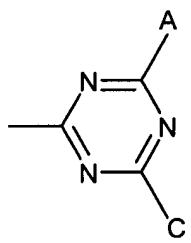


1.(original): A fluorescent whitening agent, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae



in which

A* represents a group of the formula

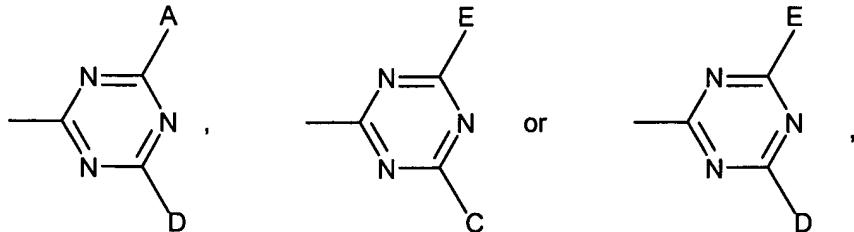


wherein

A represents $-X-Y-NR_3R_4$ and

C is $-NR_1R_2$ and

B* represents a group of the formula

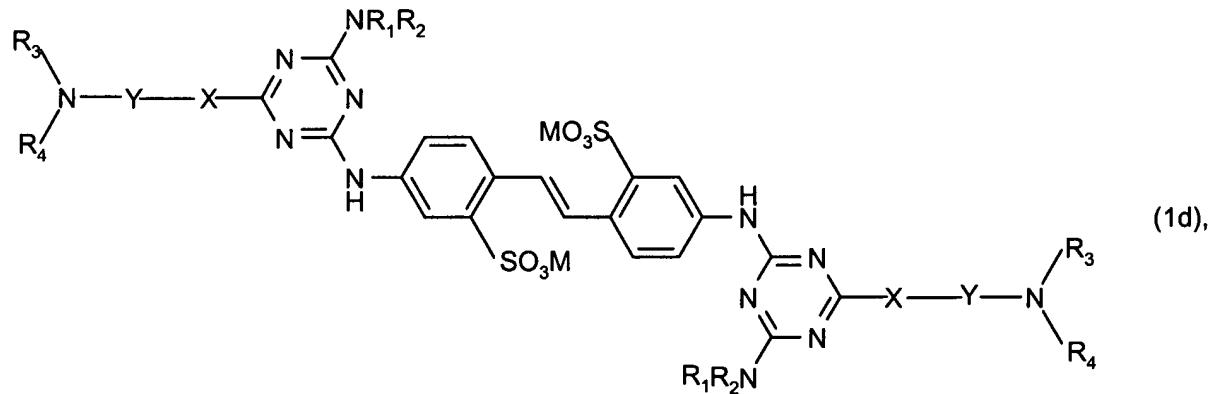


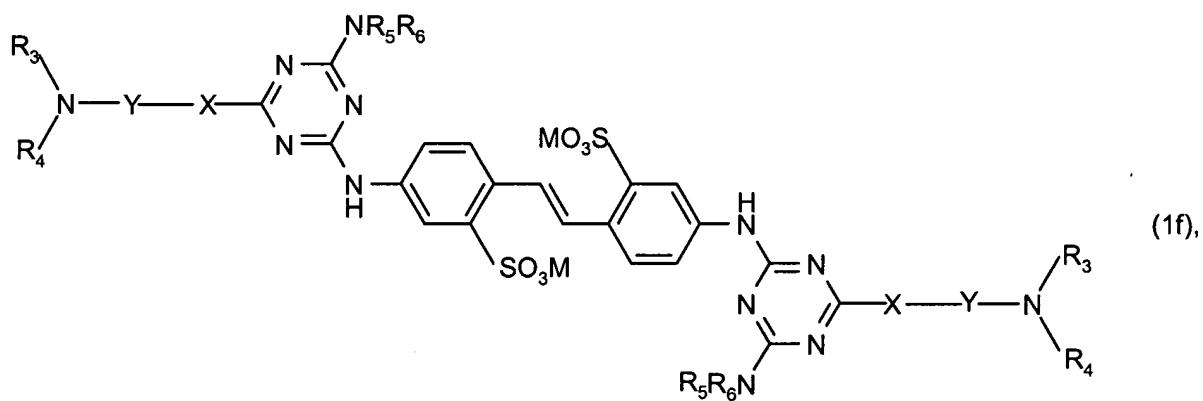
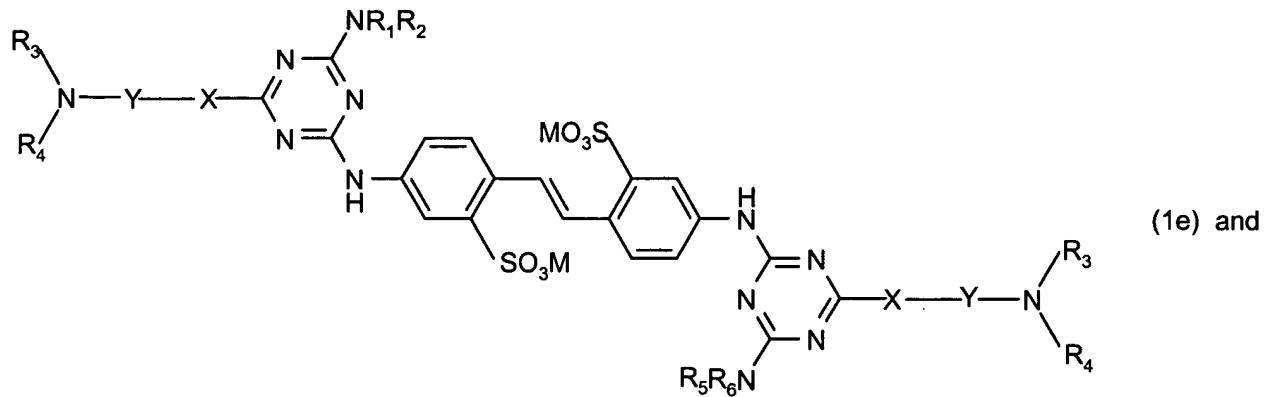
wherein

D represents $-NR_5R_6$ and

E represents $-X_1-Y_1-NR_7R_8$, whereby
 X and X_1 each, independently of each other, represent -O- or -NH-,
 Y and Y_1 each, independently of each other, represent a straight-chain C_2-C_8 alkylene or branched C_3-C_8 alkylene chain, which may be interrupted by one or two nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur atoms or represent a 5- or 6-membered cycloaliphatic ring,
 R_1 , R_2 , R_5 and R_6 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, C_2-C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy C_1-C_4 alkyl, phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkyl or sulphonamido, or
 R_1 and R_2 and /or R_5 and R_6 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino- piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,
 R_3 , R_4 , R_7 and R_8 , each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 hydroxyalkyl or
 R_3 and R_4 and/or R_7 and R_8 , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring and
M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkylammonium.

2. (currently amended): A fluorescent whitening agent, according to claim 1, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae

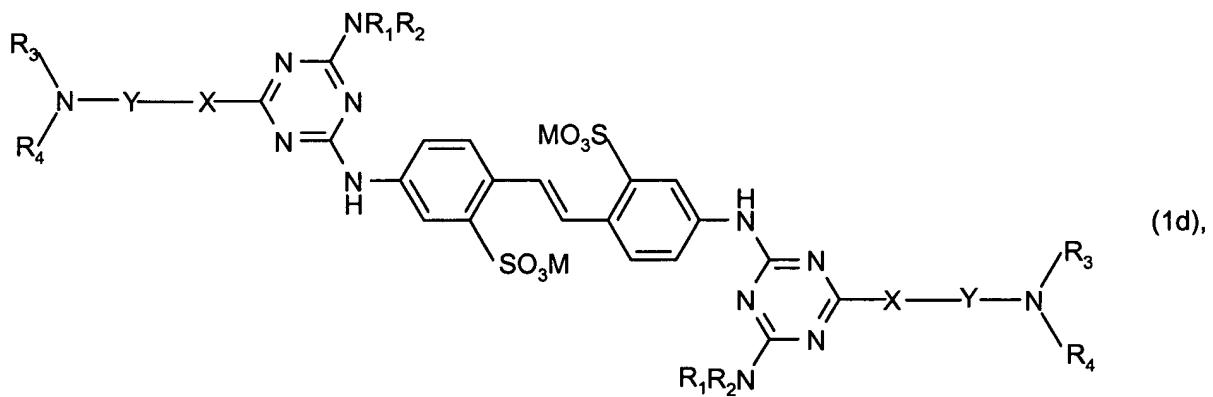


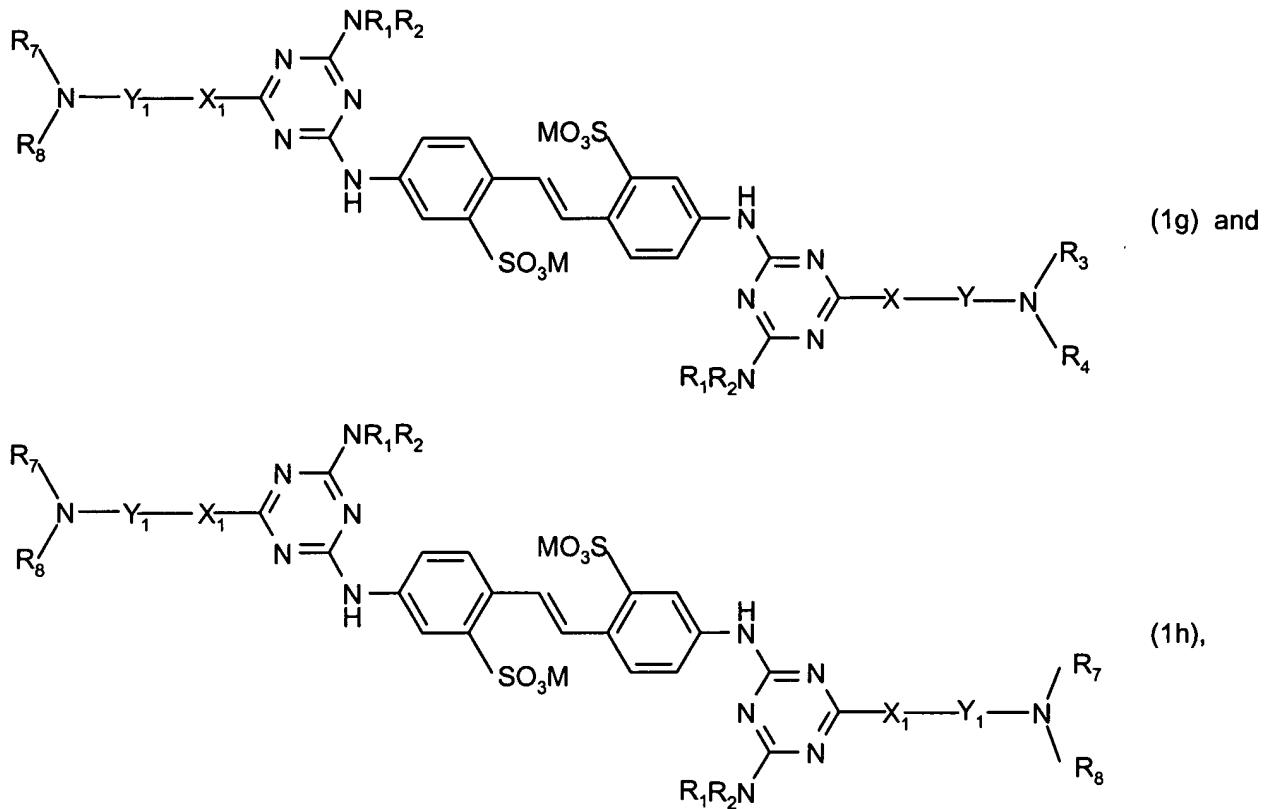


in which

X, Y, R₄, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆ and M are as defined in claim 1.

3. (currently amended): A fluorescent whitening agent, according to claim 1, which comprises a mixture of compounds of the formulae

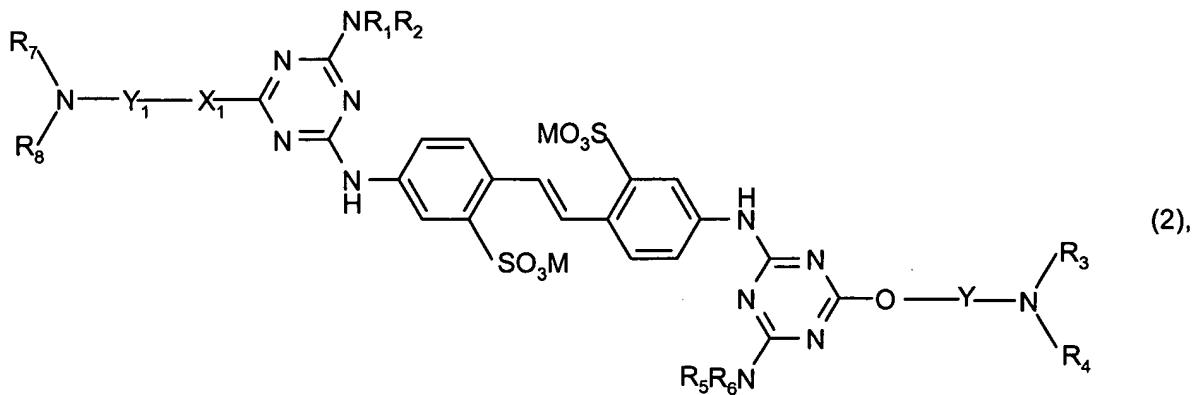




in which

$X, X_1, Y, Y_1, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8$ and M are as defined in claim 1.

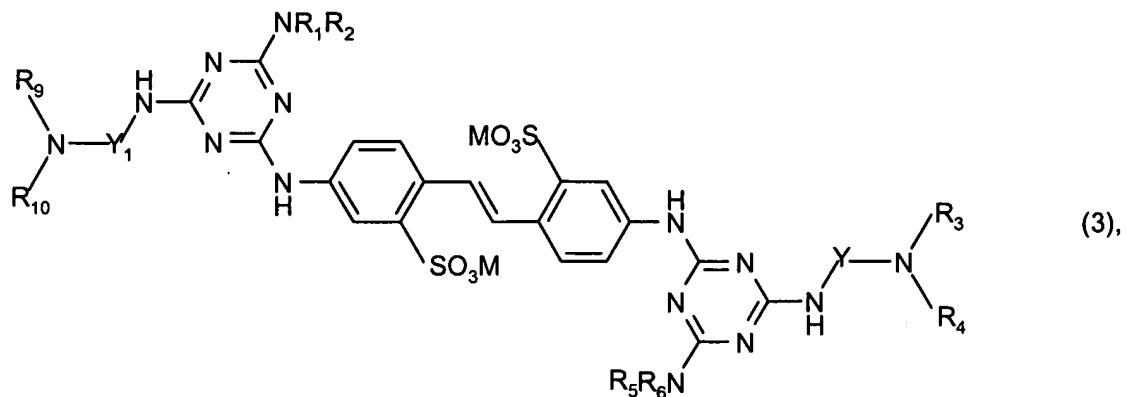
4. (original): A compound of formula



in which

$X_1, Y, Y_1, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8$ and M are as defined in claim 1.

5. (original): A compound of the formula

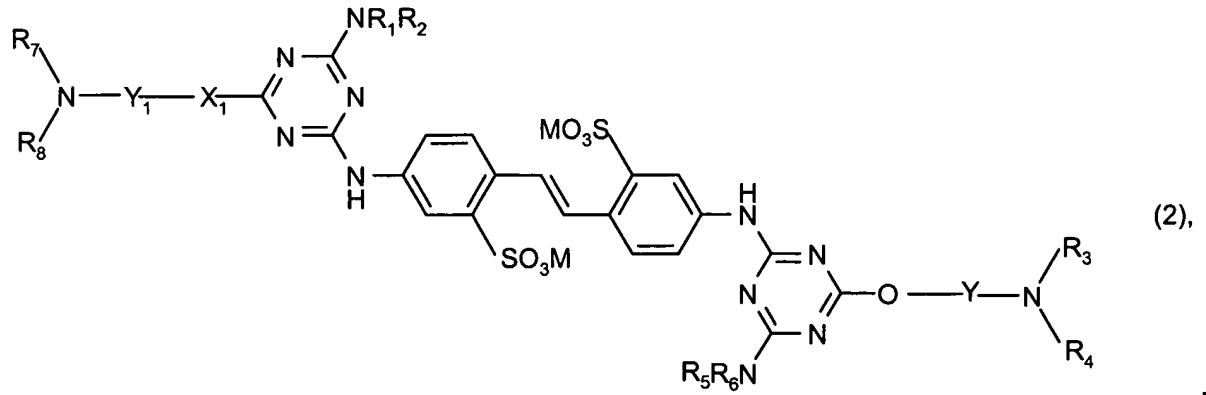


in which

R_9 and R_{10} , each independently of each other, represent hydrogen or $C_2\text{-}C_4$ hydroxyalkyl and Y , Y_1 , R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , and M are as defined in claim 1, with the proviso that when Y and Y_1 both represent $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, R_1 and R_5 are both phenyl and R_2 and R_6 are both hydrogen, R_3 , R_4 , R_9 and R_{10} are not all $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$.

6. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim 1, by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, amino compounds of formulae $R_1R_2\text{NH}$ and $R_5R_6\text{NH}$ or mixtures thereof and compounds of formulae R_3R_4YXH and $R_7R_8Y_1X_1H$ or mixtures thereof[[.]]
 ~~$X, X_1, Y, Y_1, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7$ and R_8 being as defined in claim 1.~~

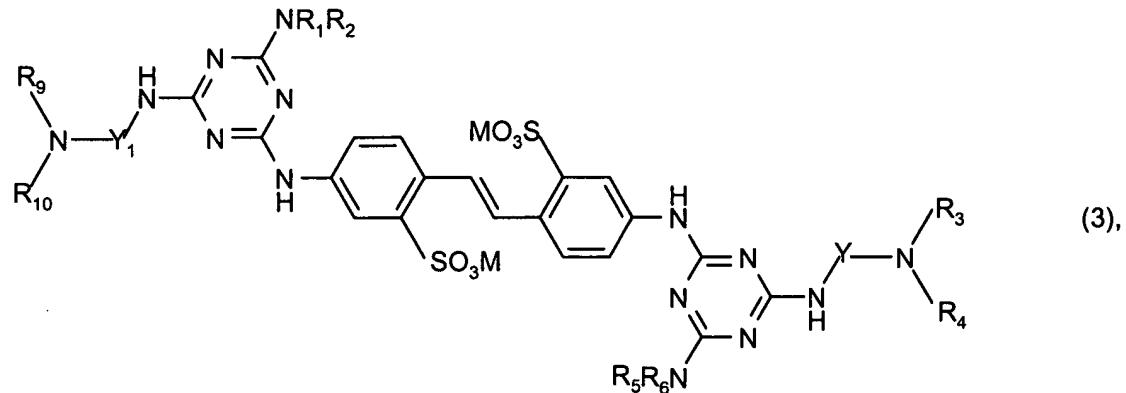
7. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (2),



according to claim 4, by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, an amino compound of formula R_1R_2NH , an amino compound of formula R_5R_6NH , a hydroxy compound of formula R_3R_4NYOH and a compound of formula $R_7R_8NY_1X_1H$,

X_1 , Y , Y_1 , R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 and R_8 being as defined in claim 1.

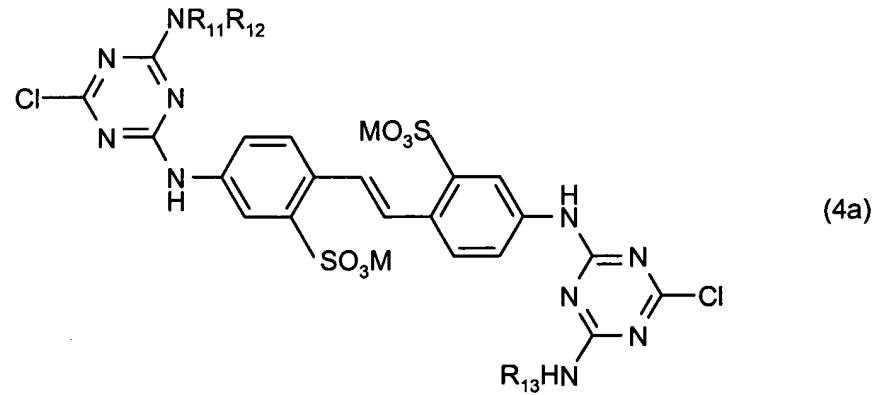
8. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (3),



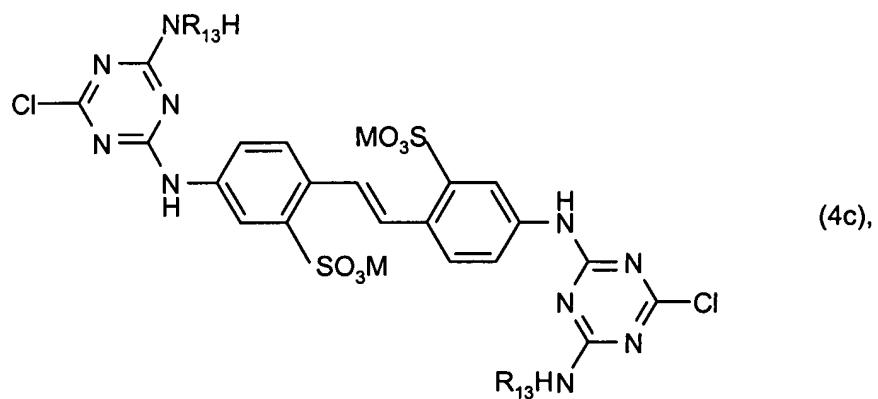
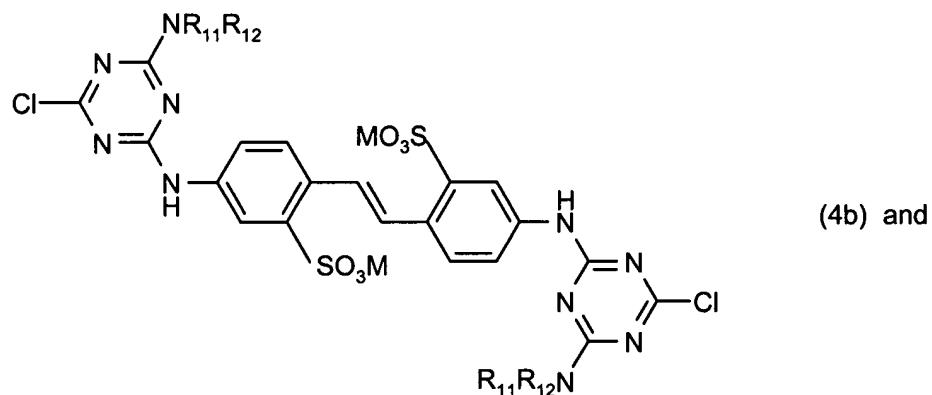
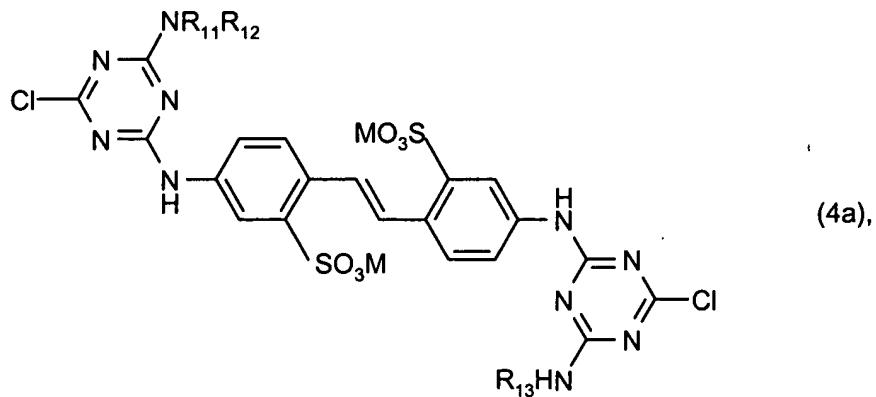
according to claim 5, by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, an amino compound of formula R_1R_2NH , an amino compound of formula R_5R_6NH , an amino compound of formula $R_3R_4NYNH_2$ and a compound of formula $R_9R_{10}NY_1NH_2$,

Y , Y_1 , R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_6 , R_9 and R_{10} being as defined in claims 1 and claim 5.

9. (original): A compound of the formula



or a mixture comprising compounds of the formulae

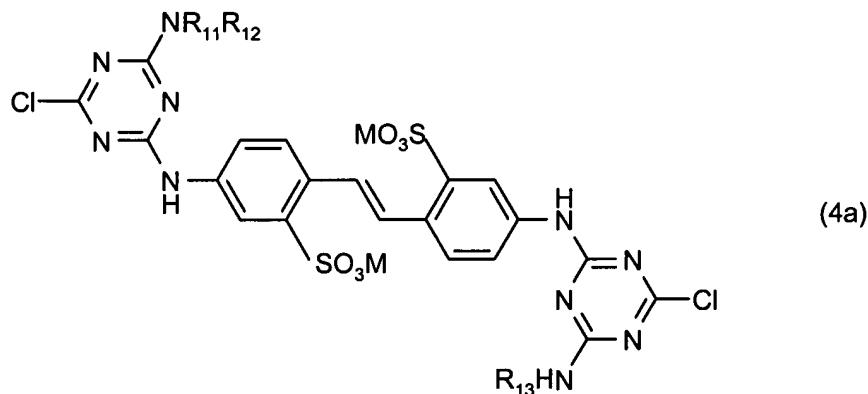


in which

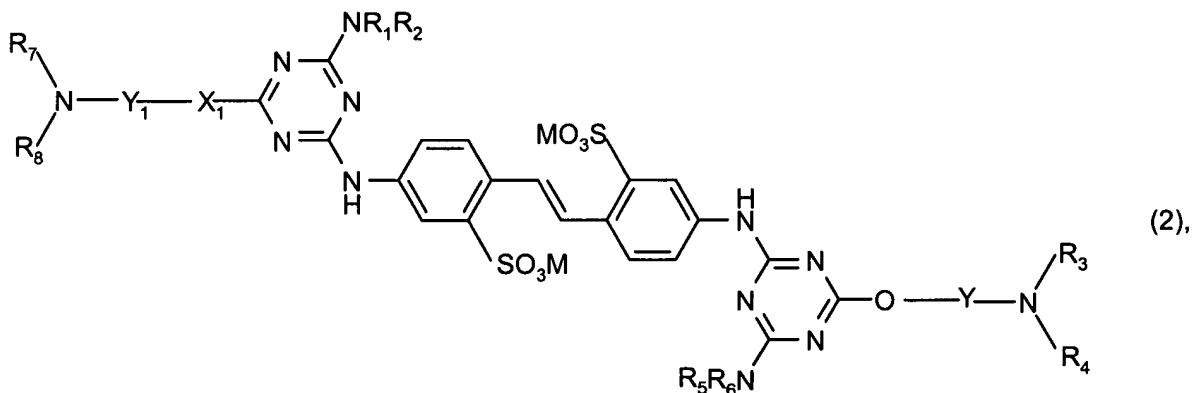
R_{11} and R_{12} , each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl, C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxyC₁-C₄alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,
 R_{13} represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkyl or sulphonamido and
 M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkyl ammonium.

10. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (4a) or a mixture of compounds of formulae (4a), (4b) and (4c), according to claim 9, by reacting, under known reaction conditions, cyanuric chloride, successively, in any desired sequence, with each of 4,4'-diaminostilbene-2,2'-disulphonic acid, an amino compound of formula $R_{11}R_{12}NH$ and an amino compound of formula $R_{13}NH_2$ or with a mixture of amino compounds $R_{11}R_{12}NH$ and $R_{13}NH_2$, R_{11} , R_{12} and R_{13} being as previously defined in claim 9.

11.(currently amended): Use An intermediate of the compound of formula (4a),



according to claim 9, for the preparation of a compound of formula (2), according to claim 3,



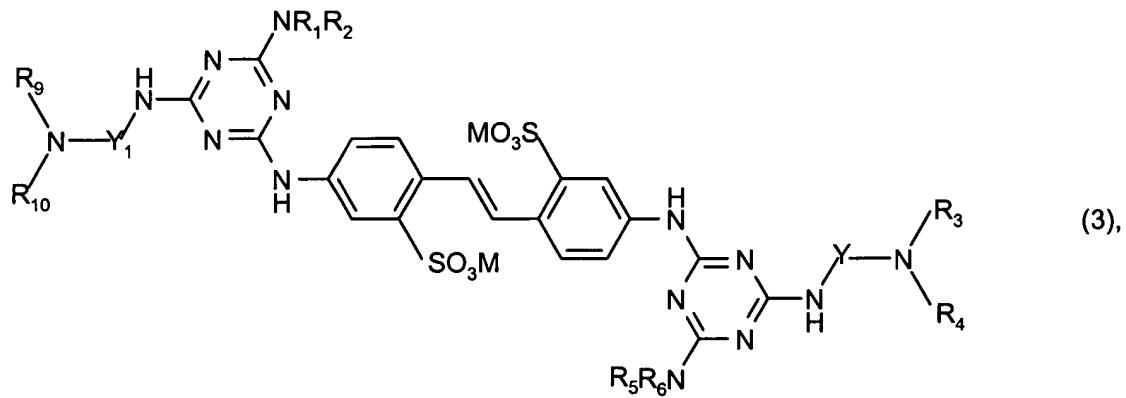
in which, in formula (2),

R_1 and R_2 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy C_1-C_4 alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,
 R_5 represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkyl or sulphonamido,

R_6 represents hydrogen and

$X_1, Y, Y_1, R_3, R_4, R_7, R_8$ and M are as defined in claim 1[;]or

for the preparation of compound of formula (3), ~~according to claim 5,~~



in which, in formula (3),

R_1 and R_2 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl,

C_2-C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy C_1-C_4 alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R_5 represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4 alkoxy,

C_1-C_4 alkyl or sulphonamido,

R_6 represents hydrogen and

$Y, Y_1, R_3, R_4, R_9, R_{10}$, and M are as previously defined in claims 1 and 5 respectively

wherein R_9 and R_{10} , each independently of each other, represent hydrogen or C_2-C_4 hydroxyalkyl and
, with the proviso that when

Y and Y_1 both represent $-CH_2CH_2CH_2-$, R_1 and R_5 are both phenyl and R_2 and R_6 are both hydrogen,

R_3, R_4, R_9 and R_{10} are not all $-CH_2CH_2OH$.

or

use of the mixture of compounds of formulae (4a), (4b) and (4c), according to claim 9, for the preparation of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim 1, in which, in formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c),

R_4 and R_5 each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl,

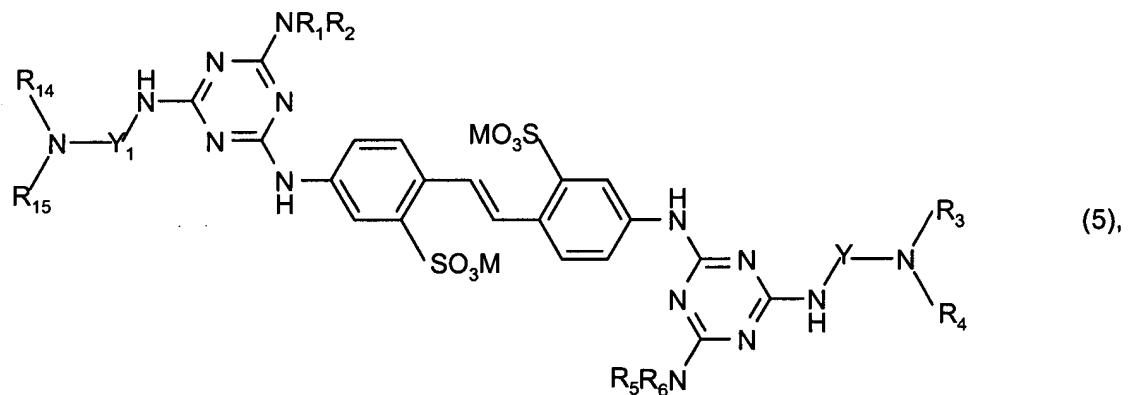
C_2-C_4 hydroxyalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy C_1-C_4 alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

~~R₅ represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkyl or sulphonamide,~~
~~R₆ represents hydrogen and~~
~~X, X₁, Y, Y₁, R₃, R₄, R₇, R₈ and M are as defined in claim 1.~~

12. (currently amended): ~~Use of the a method of fluorescent whitening paper comprising contacting the paper with a fluorescent whitening mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim 1, for the fluorescent whitening of paper.~~

13. (currently amended): ~~Use of the A method of fluorescent whitening paper comprising contacting the the paper with a fluorescent whitening agent of a compound of formula (2), according to claim 4, for the fluorescent whitening of paper.~~

14.(currently amended): ~~Use of the compound of formula A method of fluorescent whitening paper comprising contacting the paper with a fluorescent whitenting agent of formula (5)~~



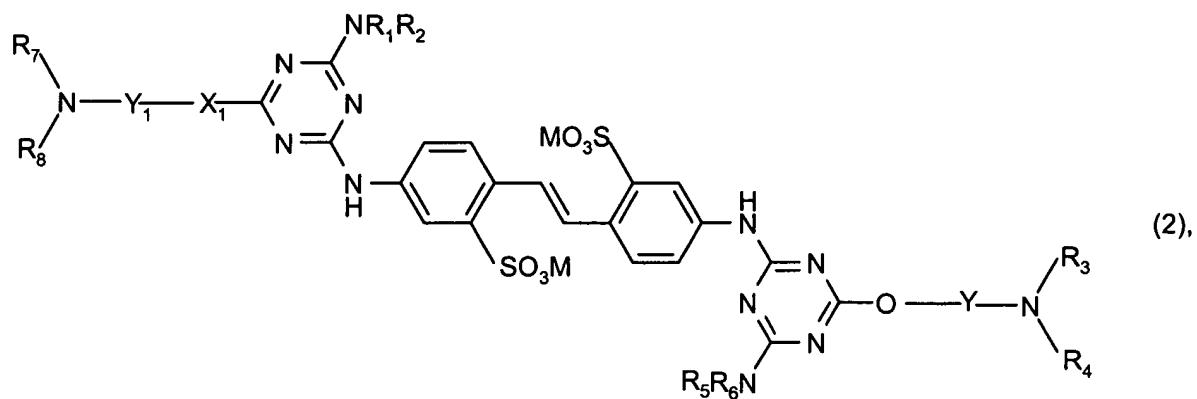
in which

R₁₄ and R₁₅, each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl or C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl and

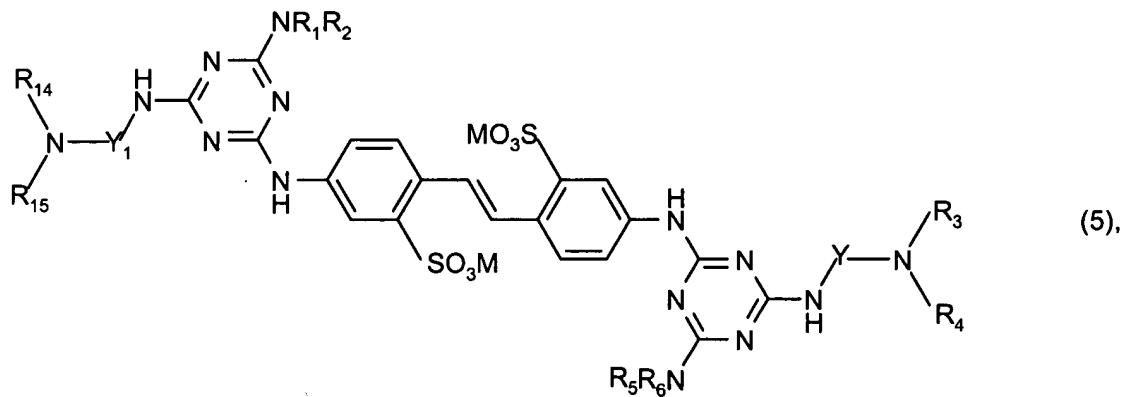
Y, Y₁, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, and M are as defined in claim 1, ~~for the fluorescent whitening of paper.~~

15. (currently amended): Paper, which has been treated with a fluorescent whitening agent comprising either a mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim 1,

a compound of formula (2), ~~according to claim 4~~



or a compound of formula (5), according to claim 14.

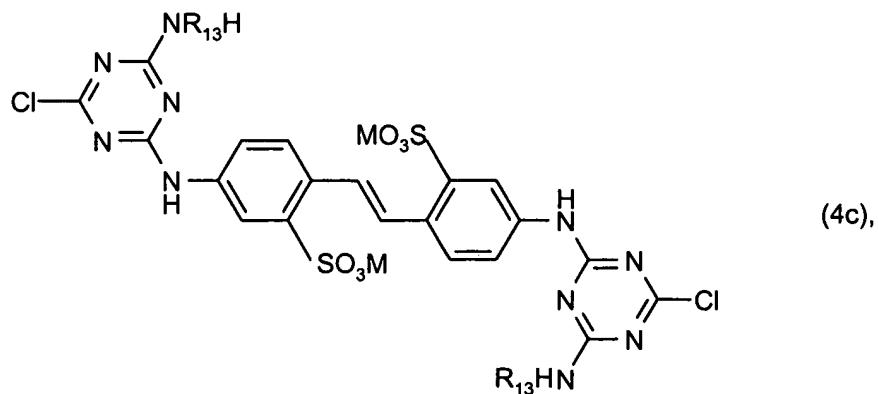
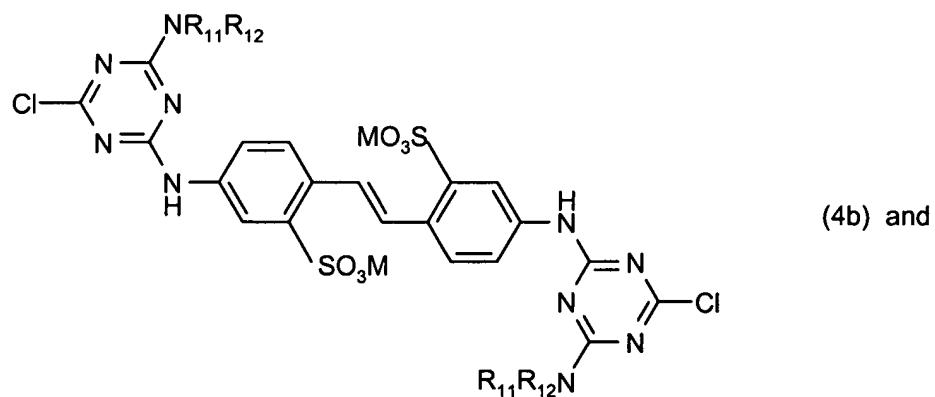
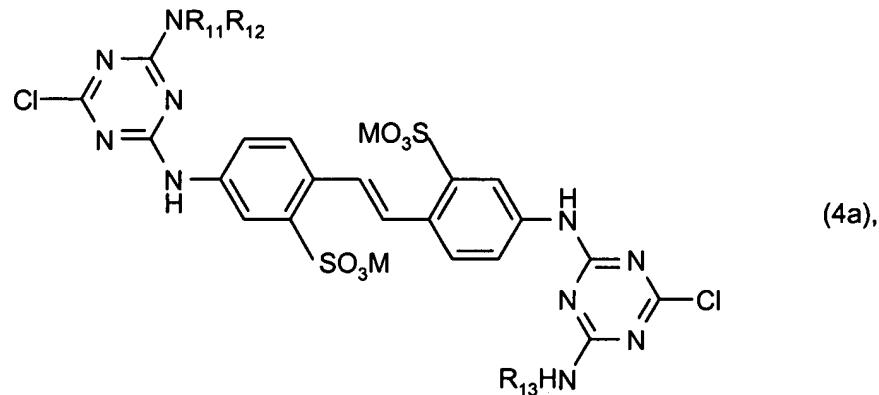


in which

R₁₄ and R₁₅, each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl or C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl and

X₁, Y, Y₁, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈ and M are as defined in claim 1.

16. (new): A mixture of intermediates of formulae (4a), (4b) and (4c),



in which in formulae (4a), (4b) and (4c),

R₁₁ and R₁₂, each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl,

C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxyC₁-C₄alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R₁₃ represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkyl or sulphonamido and

M represents hydrogen, an alkaline or alkaline earth metal, ammonium or alkyl ammonium,

for the preparation of a mixture of compounds of formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c), according to claim 1, in which, in formulae (1a), (1b) and (1c),

R₁ and R₂ each independently of each other, represent hydrogen, C₁-C₄alkyl,

C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl, C₁-C₄alkoxyC₁-C₄alkyl or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, complete a morpholino-, piperidino- or pyrrolidino-ring,

R₅ represents phenyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₁-C₄alkyl or sulphonamido,

R₆ represents hydrogen and

X, X₁, Y, Y₁, R₃, R₄, R₇, R₈ and M are as defined in claim 1.